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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/646,323	08/22/2003	Mark Smolenski	00601-0044US	9692

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EXAMINER	
RODRIGUEZ, RUTH C	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3677	

DATE MAILED: 08/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/646,323	SMOLENSKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ruth C. Rodriguez	3677	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *02 June 2005*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-28* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *21-28* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *22 August 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 21, 23, 25, 27 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Veser et al. (US 6,108,865).

A method of joining first and second tubular elements (6,7) comprises the steps of: a) providing a first tubular element (7) having a first axis, a first portion with a radially outwardly facing surface and a first connecting assembly (12); b) providing a second tubular element (6) having a second axis, a second portion with a radially inwardly facing surface, and a second connecting assembly (10,11); c) aligning the first and second tubular elements in a preassembly state with the first and second axes substantially coincident and the first portion adjacent to the second portion (having the projection 12 beginning to enter the guide groove 10 or 11); d) relatively axially moving the first and second tubular elements from the preassembly state towards each other into a first relative axial position and with the first and second tubular elements in the first relative axial position, relatively moving the first and second tubular elements around the first and second axes from a first relative rotational position into a second relative rotational position and thereby causing the first and second connecting

assemblies to cooperate so as to draw the first and second portions axially towards each other with the first and second tubular elements in a second relative axial position (by moving the projection 12 along the guide groove 10 or 11 until it reaches 20), wherein a frictional force generated between the radially inwardly and outwardly facing surfaces on the first and the second portions is greater than with the first and second tubular elements in the first relative axial position (C. 3, L. 16-28 and Fig. 3). The step of causing the first and second connecting assemblies to cooperate comprises causing the first and second connecting assemblies to cooperate to releasably block the first and second tubular elements in the second relative rotational position (Figs. 1-3).

The step of causing the first and second connecting assemblies to cooperate comprises causing a projection (12) on one of the first and second connecting assemblies to move in a groove (10,11) with an axial rise on the other of the first and second connecting assemblies (Figs. 1-3).

The method further comprises the step of operatively connecting the tubular element to a fluid blower (1) so that fluid propelled by the fluid blower is directed through the joined first and second tubular elements (Fig. 1).

In combination, a first tubular element (7) and a second tubular element (6). The first tubular element has a first axis, a first portion with a radially outwardly facing surface and a first connecting assembly (12,13) at a first circumferentially facing surface. The second tubular element has a second portion with a second axis, a radially inwardly facing surface and a second connecting assembly (10,11) with a second circumferentially facing surface. The first portion extends within the second

portion so that the radially inwardly facing surface on the second tubular element surrounds the radially outwardly facing surface on the first tubular element (Figs. 1-3). The first and second tubular elements positionable in a first relative axial position wherein relative movement of the first and second tubular elements around the first and second axes between a first relative rotational position (having the projection 12 beginning to enter the guide groove 10 or 11) and a second relative rotational position causes the first and second connecting assemblies to cooperate to draw the first and second portions axially towards each other (Fig. 1 and 3). The first and second connecting assemblies cooperating so that the first and second circumferentially facing surfaces confront each other with the first and second tubular elements in the second relative rotational position to thereby block relative movement of the first and second tubular elements from the second relative rotational position back into the first relative rotational position (C. 3, L. 16-28 and Fig. 3). One of the first and second connecting assemblies comprises a first radially extending projection (12,13) and the other of the first and second connecting assemblies has a first groove (10,11) with a substantially uniform width in which the projection guidingly moves as the first and second tubular elements are changed between the first and second relative positions (Figs. 1-3).

The first radially outwardly projection has an elongated shape with a length and the projection moves in a direction substantially parallel to the length of the projection as the first and second tubular elements are changed between the first and second relative positions (before and after the projection enter the area 12).

3. Claims 21-24 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rosler (US 4,046,279).

A method of joining first and second tubular elements (1,2) comprises the steps of: a) providing a first tubular element (1) having a first axis, a first portion with a radially outwardly facing surface and a first connecting assembly (3); b) providing a second tubular element (2) having a second axis, a second portion with a radially inwardly facing surface, and a second connecting assembly (9); c) aligning the first and second tubular elements in a preassembly state with the first and second axes substantially coincident and the first portion adjacent to the second portion (having the projection 9 beginning to enter the guide groove 3); d) relatively axially moving the first and second tubular elements from the preassembly state towards each other into a first relative axial position and with the first and second tubular elements in the first relative axial position, relatively moving the first and second tubular elements around the first and second axes from a first relative rotational position into a second relative rotational position and thereby causing the first and second connecting assemblies to cooperate so as to draw the first and second portions axially towards each other with the first and second tubular elements in a second relative axial position (by moving the projection 9 along the guide groove 3 until it reaches a slot 4), wherein a frictional force generated between the radially inwardly and outwardly facing surfaces on the first and the second portions is greater than with the first and second tubular elements in the first relative axial position (C. 2, L. 53-68 and C. 3, L. 1-9). The step of causing the first and second connecting assemblies to cooperate comprises causing the first and second connecting assemblies

to cooperate to releasably block the first and second tubular elements in the second relative rotational position (Figs. 8).

The step of causing the first and second connecting assemblies to cooperate to cooperatively releasably block the first and second tubular elements in the second relative rotational position comprises causing circumferentially facing surfaces on the first and second connecting assemblies to confront each other (having one particular projection 9 engaging a particular slot 4). Further comprising the step of relatively moving the first and second tubular elements around the first and second axes to a third relative rotational position wherein circumferentially facing surfaces in the first and second connecting assemblies confront each other to block movement of the first and second connecting elements from a third relative rotational position back into the second relative rotatational position (by rotating the two members in order to disengage the projection 9 from a particular slot 4 and moving the two members axially until the desired axial displacement is obtained and the projection 9 engages another slot 4 different from the prior particular slot 4.

The step of causing the first and second connecting assemblies to cooperate comprises causing a projection (9) on one of the first and second connecting assemblies to move in a groove (3) with an axial rise on the other of the first and second connecting assemblies (Figs. 1 and 8).

The step of causing the first and second connecting assemblies to cooperate causing a plurality of axially spaced projection to interact one each with a plurality of grooves each with an axial rise (Fig. 8).

A first tubular element (1) and a second tubular element (2). The first tubular element has a first axis, a first portion with a radially outwardly facing surface and a first connecting assembly (3a,4) at a first circumferentially facing surface. The second tubular element has a second portion with a second axis, a radially inwardly facing surface and a second connecting assembly (9) with a second circumferentially facing surface. The first portion extends within the second portion so that the radially inwardly facing surface on the second tubular element surrounds the radially outwardly facing surface on the first tubular element (Figs. 1-3). The first and second tubular elements positionable in a first relative axial position wherein relative movement of the first and second tubular elements around the first and second axes between a first relative rotational position (having the projection 9 beginning to enter the guide groove 3a) and a second relative rotational position causes the first and second connecting assemblies to cooperate to draw the first and second portions axially towards each other (Fig. 8). The first and second connecting assemblies cooperating so that the first and second circumferentially facing surfaces confront each other with the first and second tubular elements in the second relative rotational position to thereby block relative movement of the first and second tubular elements from the second relative rotational position back into the first relative rotational position (Fig. 8). The first and second tubular elements are positionable in a second relative axial position wherein relative movement of the first and second tubular elements from the first relative rotational position into the second relative rotational position cause the first and second connecting assemblies to draw the first and second potions axially towards each other further than the first and second

tubular elements in the first relative axial position and the first and second tubular elements are moved from the first relative rotational position into the second rotational position (moving the pins 9 further inside or outside along the groove 3). The radially outwardly facing surfaces on the first tubular element and the radially inwardly facing surfaces on the second tubular element are relatively dimensioned so that the radially outwardly facing surface and the radially inwardly facing surface are urged against each other with a frictional force that is greater with the first and second tubular elements in the second relative roatational position than with the first and second tubular elements in the first and second rotational position (C. 2, L. 53-68 and C. 3, L. 1-9).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-20 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 21-28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Gilbert (US 1,951,754), Pietro (US 4,911,573), Haynes (US 6,447,021 B1) and Ray et al. (US 6,811,190 B1) are cited to show state of the art with respect to telescoping mechanism having a connection means similar to the one being claimed by the current application.

Nishimura et al. (US 5,926,910) and Vesser (US 6,108,865) are cited to show state of the art with respect to fluid blower having a connection means similar to the one being claimed by the current application.Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ruth C Rodriguez whose telephone number is (571) 272-7070. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 07:15 - 15:45.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on (571) 272-7075.

Submissions of your responses by facsimile transmission are encouraged. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-6640.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ruth C. Rodriguez
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3677

RCR
rcr
August 22, 2005

ROBERT J. SANDY
PRIMARY EXAMINER